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SJC Gains a New Puma: President Robert Pastoor

By Ana Lara
News Writer

Meet the new President, Dr. Robert Pastoor! President Pastoor was born in Maastricht, The Netherlands and lived there until he was 8 years old then his family moved to the United States and he grew up in Virginia. He attended Mount Saint Mary's University where he received his Bachelor of Science, McDaniel College where he also received his Master of Education and lastly he attended the University of Montana where received his Doctorate of Education.

Pastoor was well qualified before becoming president here at Saint Joe including having 34 years of higher education experience. Before Saint Joe he

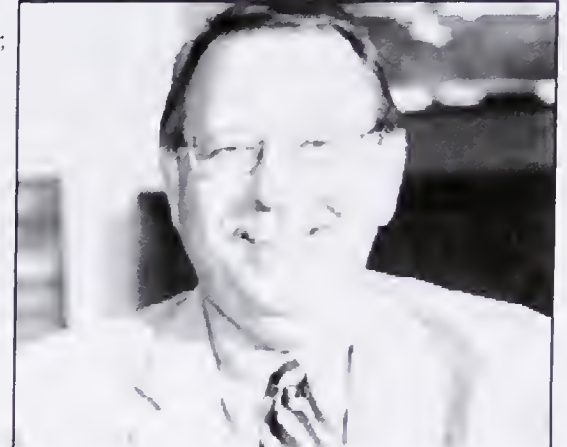
Dr. Robert Pastoor, the new president, meets the students and faculty at the Saint Joseph's Table celebration in the Core Foyer on Thursday, March 19, 2015.
Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College.



was Vice President at Marietta College in Ohio. During the election process, he said Saint Josephs appealed to him because it is a small, Catholic institution with a great educational reputation. His decision was also made easier by meeting the amazing people at Saint Joseph's College during his interview on campus.

When asked what he brought him to the Saint Joseph's College community, he responded that because he had Catholic school preparation, he knows how important it is for a Catholic community to have a leader who understands the importance of their traditions. He feels as though he has had enough preparation for the decision making in all

Dr. Robert Pastoor, the New president of Saint Joseph College. He officially began on March 16, 2015. He has big plans for the college including fundraising, increasing diversity, and building community. Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College.



matters including budget, student enrollment, student affairs, and even teaching.

He commented that he hopes to bring a "fresh eye" to the college. He also says he brings "enthusiasm, [the] ability to get people to work together to fix the problems that exist, and relationship building." Other colleagues have also called Pastoor an "Agent of change."

President Pastoor hopes to fix problems such as the enrollment issue by reaching out to international students. He wants to have a campus that thrives internationally. He wants to increase the diversity on campus. This includes reaching out to students from Puerto Rico

and Iran. He wants Saint Joseph's College to have a sense of diversity and multiculturalism.

He also plans to increase revenue in new ways, including endowment through fundraising, and other unique opportunities such as summer camps. President Pastoor wants to create a community where students are staying and graduating. He also hopes to create a community involving everyone, students, parents, alumni and donors.

He is looking forward to working with the talented staff and "gathering the troops" to work together to attack the issues and generate enthusiasm about Saint Joseph's College.

Kairos 70 Retreat Cancelled: The Search for a New "Home" Continues

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Kairos Retreats through Campus Ministry have been an important part of the Saint Joseph's College experience since Kairos 1 was held in 1986. Now on Kairos 70, there has been a unfortunate development: The Spiritual Life in Hammond, Indiana, the location of the retreats since the early 1990s, is no longer available for use. This has caused the retreat to be cancelled.

Kairos is a spiritual retreat for students of all faiths where through large, small, and personal activities and prayer, they have the opportunity to grow in their spirituality. The retreat begins on a Thursday evening and runs through late Sunday morning. Since 2003, the retreat has been held three times a year in order to better accommodate both the number of students who want to come and their schedules; it is held in mid-October, late January, and late March.

Kairos 70 has been in the planning process since November 2014. A team of ten students has rigorously been planning the retreat and thirteen Pumas were signed up and ready to attend the retreat. The retreat was officially cancelled on March 3, 2015 because the center is being



Students on Kairos 68, held in October of 2014, prepare a meal together in the communal kitchen in the Spiritual Life Center in Hammond, IN. Photo courtesy of Brother Tim Hemm.

torn down by the owners to be made into a parking lot for a local school. The reason behind the building tear down is that there were too many structural problems with the building that the owners were not willing to fix due to the cost. Over the years, there have been a lot of problems with the building. Brother Tim Hemm C.P.P.S., who is in charge of the Kairos retreats, noted that there have been retreats where there has been no hot water or heat.

Despite the problems, the Spiritual Life Center has been an integral part of the Kairos experience. Hemm commented that its "nothing fancy but it was 'home' for us. We always tried to leave it in better shape than the way we found it." The center provided a place that met the retreat's needs, including private room for each person,

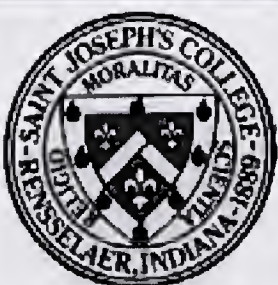
communal bathrooms and shower rooms, a dining room, a "conference room," chapel, five smaller breakout rooms, and a commercial kitchen where they were able to prepare their own meals. These are crucial elements as the growth that students experience is so personal that they need privacy. Also, being able to cook their own meals together adds to the sense of community. All of these parameters are important as they search for and consider a new location.

Other factors are cost and distance. The one hour and fifteen minute bus ride was the maximum commute because of "bus trip costs, timing to get there and to get home within the parameters of the schedule" according to Hemm. The cost of the Spiritual Life Center was only \$1,000.00 for the entire weekend. Campus Ministry is not expecting to find a price this low, but they have yet to

find anything affordable that also fits their needs.

Students on the retreat commented on both the Spiritual Life Center and the Kairos experience. Jeffery Grider, a senior Biology major, said that "The Spiritual Life Center is undoubtedly a special place... The magic that takes place in the Spiritual Life Center will be hard to replace... it is a disheartening to lose a place like that." Juliana Pater, a junior Elementary Education major, was supposed to be a retreatant on Kairos 70. She commented that "I was looking forward to it because I really wanted to connect with more people on campus since I only have one more year to go... I thought I was finally going to be able to go, but I hope I will have the chance to next year as a senior" Jennie Weer, a junior Mass Communications major commented that "Kairos is a crucial part of your SJC experience. Not only is it a way to connect with your spirituality, but it is a perfect opportunity to make friends."

Kairos 70 is the first retreat to be cancelled since Kairos 27. Campus Ministry hopes to find a suitable location as soon as possible so that students can continue to have this experience.



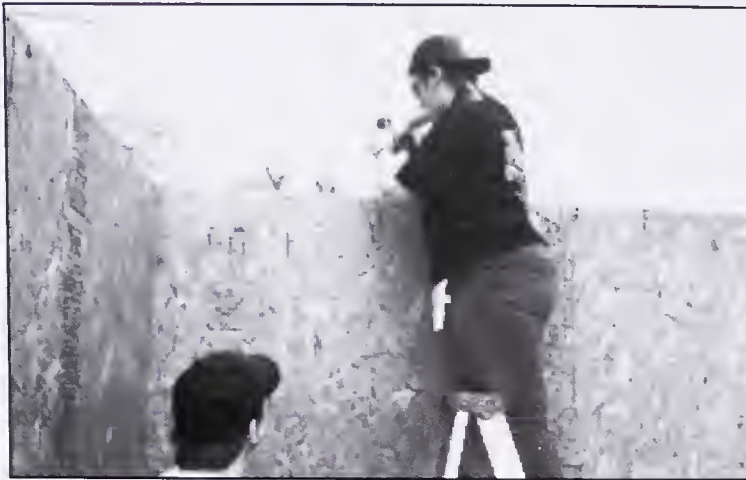
Habitat for Humanity Travels to Tennessee

By Casey Snow
News Writer

While it can be difficult to imagine not having a place to call home, it is an increasing problem in the world today. Luckily, Habitat for Humanity is an organization that has been building homes for those in need for nearly 40 years. Habitat for Humanity is an international nonprofit organization that has provided over one million families with a home and improved living conditions. Although there are Habitat affiliates all over the U.S., SJC has its own Habitat chapter run by Fred Berger and President Kate Hickner. This local chapter takes trips and helps to build homes across the world. They just got back from their spring break trip to Morristown, Tennessee.

On Saturday, March 7, 18 students from SJC along with Fred and Sally Berger left Rensselaer for spring break in Tennessee to help build a home in Morristown for a mother and her two children. "When we arrived on the job site, the 'house' was essentially just 4 walls," said SJC junior Kate Hickner, President of SJC's Habitat chapter and a member since her freshman year.

These students spent the week insulating the house, cutting windows and doors, siding it, making and putting up the interior walls, and insulating the crawl space. During their stay, the future homeowner, Farrah, was on the job site every day with her two children, Micah and Madison who were very



Above: Katie Davisson works on a wall while another student holds the ladder.

Photo courtesy of Katie Davisson

excited to see their new home coming together. Hickner told the Observer, "having the homeowner on the job site every day made the experience much more meaningful, she was so grateful, even though, she gave us so much in return." This was a great opportunity for Habitat members to learn, grow, and work together during a life changing experience to help those in need. The supervisors made the trip an even better experience, as Hickner said "our construction supervisors were truly great men and were a pleasure to work with. They even invited us to come back next year for Thanksgiving break!" Though SJC's Habitat members were not there long enough to finish the job, another team of members will be moving in to finish the house for Farrah, Micah, and Madison by the end of the month.

While Habitat members usually stay in churches during their stay, during this trip they stayed at a Lakeway Habitat housing area. Rather than going

out after getting off work, Habitat members were provided with activities like board games and a ping pong table. When they were not working, they got the opportunity to go hiking in the Smokey Mountains and Panther Creek along with going on a ghost tour in Knoxville and trying out the gear that is used when hunting ghosts.

Overall, this Habitat trip to Tennessee was just one of the many successful trips that allowed SJC's members to make connections and work together. Caddy Enright, junior at SJC told the Observer, "I would definitely recommend taking a Habitat trip, it is the best experience I've ever had."

Taking a trip with Habitat for Humanity is one that not only provides a great experience for those working, but a home and care for those who need it most, which is more rewarding than anything.



Above: Saint Joseph's College's Habitat for Humanity Team before putting up a wall
Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

Right: The Habitat for Humanity group made great progress over the week
Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity

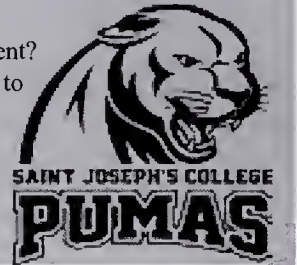
Left: Hannah Walters works at the saw
Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity



Upcoming Puma Events!

March 25 - Lentin Reconciliation Service
March 27 - League of Legends Night
March 28 - Forensic Science Discover Day
March 29 - Band Spring Concert
April 25 - Little 500 Festival

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Kylie Hill at
khw10051@saintjoe.edu or
Alyssa Cook at
acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



Meet the Staff: Professor Michael Nichols

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

Many current and former students have probably had Dr. Michael Nichols in Core or listened to his lectures. He also teaches in the Philosophy Department, in classes that focus on world religions like Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Dr. Nichols got his Bachelor's degree from Saint Joseph's College, his Master's degree from Miami University (Ohio), and his PhD from Northwestern University in comparative religion. When asked why he came back to Saint Joseph's College to teach, Nichols said, "First, I really believe in the importance and value of the Core program and the Mission of which it is a part. Second, at a place like Saint Joe, a professor can really get to know the students and have an impact on their lives, and I could give back to a place that gave me so much as a student."

Dr. Nichols described the many aspects of Core that he likes: "As a graduate, I can say that it formed me intellectually and gave me tools to succeed professionally. As an instructor who enjoys covering topics across disciplinary boundaries, I like the chance to talk about issues in history, literature, philosophy, and science, sometimes all at once, and to talk about them with students from all those different majors."

Dr. Nichols both teaches and lectures in a variety of Cores, and his advice to anyone who



Professor of Philosophy Dr. Michael Nichols

Photo courtesy of Dr. Nichols

wants to take his class is, "be prepared to talk: I like to ask a lot of questions about what they think of the material we're learning," a practice many other faculty members would likely advocate.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Nichols has a variety of hobbies. "Besides teaching," Nichols said, "you'll find me spending time with my wife and children. I also love reading all kinds of books, from novels to non-fiction. I'm also a big movie fan, so on my time off I catch up on films." He also remarked, "I like to play a number of board games. In fact, I even have one based on Buddhism in my office that I've used in class before." Creating challenging and beneficial learning environments in his classes, Dr. Nichols has much to offer his students and has given quite a bit back to his alma mater, Saint Joseph's College.



Kids & Devices In Our Defense

By Meghan Hennessey
Opinions Writer

We’ve all seen it, young children, often barely old enough to walk, stumbling around clutching expensive mobile devices. Whether they have an iPhone, iPad, or Kindle it seems children are attaching themselves to their mobile devices at a younger and younger age each year. With the new technology of the twenty first century mobile devices can do so much more now than they ever could in the past. There are thousands of apps targeted to young children and even babies. The amount of time young children spend using mobile devices each day is continuously rising. While the technology can be a good thing, the hold it seems to have on today’s young children is not.

When I was a young child, I certainly did not spend much time with a mobile device. Instead, I had a very low tech Gameboy with five games max and a bright purple Walkman that scratched CDs and skipped when I moved. These were not exactly



the highlight of my childhood. Practically all of my greatest memories were made while playing outside or while building Lego forts and baking cupcakes in an easy bake oven. Today young children can “bake” cupcakes, donuts, pizzas, and cookies on an app for the iPad or iPhone. Surely the experience of tapping a digital donut on a screen isn’t as fun as eating light-bulb-baked nickel sized cookies.

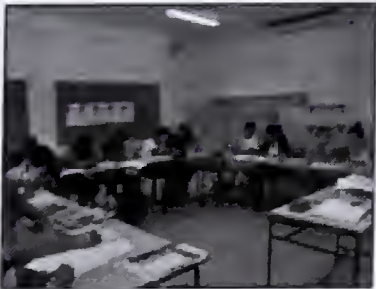
With the introduction and high availability of mobile devices, what will happen to the creativity of young children? Will their best memories be of a high score on some game? Will they only remember the luminescent screen of a phone as it opens to their favorite game? Childhood is a time when kids get to explore the world as an entirely empty canvas. They can learn new things each day and let their creativity run wild. Giving them a mobile device hinders their ability to really be adventurous and try new things. Lets go back to the days of coloring books and etch-a-sketches and save the mobile devices for later.

Photo Courtesy of Google Images

By Johna Bottorff
Opinions Writer

What I love about Saint Joe is that we have a chance to discuss what we think about certain things in our discussion classes. But one thing I do not like is being forced to talk when I do not want to. If I do not raise my hand or speak up, then I do not want to answer the question. I know discussion is meant for discussing, but not all people are good at discussions. Some people feel too strongly or not strongly enough about a subject, so they choose not to say anything. Or some people are just shy, and feel uncomfortable talking in front of other people. Now I know that talking to people is a huge part of life, but I do not think it is fair to be forced to say how you feel about something. If the student has made it to college, someone out there must have heard what they have to say, and decided that they deserve a higher education. The student may also be intimidated by the teacher. Some teachers have an intimidating way of asking questions, and some students do not like to deal with an intimidating figure because you may offend the teacher, and if the teacher is offended, then that may change their opinion of the student, and

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



the student’s grade may suffer. Now I am not saying that happens here at Saint Joe, but it could. All students worry if the teacher of the class likes them, and with that, you do not want to offend them, because everyone wants to be liked by the teacher.

Some students are just more outspoken and opinionated than other students. The not-so-outspoken students’ grade should not suffer because they do not speak up in class. When those students are ready, they will speak up, but if they do not, the teacher should know that there is something behind it. So, before you decide to make a student speak their mind, please think about it, because for all you know, that student has more on their plate than you realize. There is a reason they do not talk in Core, so do not punish them for not speaking their mind.

The Pledge

By Steve Sewell
Opinions Writer

The Pledge of Allegiance is a ludicrous expression. Everyday, millions of American youth recite the Pledge of Allegiance, “proving” their loyalty to America. More often than not, students do not understand the meaning behind the Pledge of Allegiance, what it stands for, and what it promotes. The Pledge of Allegiance is more than an expression of allegiance to the United States, instead it promotes idolatry of our country. By reciting an oath led and promoted by teachers, children are indoctrinated, allying themselves with a state before they even know what the state is or represents. Indoctrination is wrong, and conflicts with the liberty the flag is believed to represent. Those who wish to are certainly free to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but unless

the recital comes from one’s own heart, it amounts to nothing more than blind patriotism, and statism at its worst. The Pledge of Allegiance is especially a mindless oath with the inclusion of the phrase “under God”. The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written in 1892, and read: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” The phrase “under God” was not added until 1954, presumably to combat “godless” communism. So even if you’re not against the Pledge of Allegiance for being a gross violation of the separation of church and state, you should be against our government using God as a political weapon. With the amount of controversy and legal challenges surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance, it is surprising that it has not yet been eradicated.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Cirque du Soleil: The Greatest Shows in Vegas

By Kertney Brozyna
Opinions Writer

Over spring break, I went to the fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada. During the weeklong trip, I went on many adventures. I walked the ridiculously long strip, stopped at the Coca-Cola store and the M&M shop, went on the High Roller, and even saw Jeff Dunham. Of course, he is one of the greatest comedians I’ve ever watched on YouTube growing up. Achmed, the dead terrorist, is to die-for—literally. So, seeing Jeff Dunham on stage, in person, working on new skits, was absolutely a dream come true.

What I wasn’t expecting to be so amazing were the Cirque du Soleil shows. Now, let me explain why. I had heard of Cirque du Soleil vaguely from the previous visit I had in Las Vegas. I didn’t really understand what the shows were about. Now that I’ve had first hand

experience seeing what happens during these shows, I can easily say that Cirque du Soleil is by far, the best thing my eyes have ever laid eyes on. One of the best things going on is that the characters in the show don’t speak a real language. Think of it like this: you’re going to see a Broadway musical/ a gymnastics competition. Everyone could work for a circus, but they also are actors and actresses.

I saw “Kà” and “O.” Both shows were phenomenal. “Kà” was about a warrior in an Asian-like country. They all did Kung Fu and were flying around. It was pretty great. “O” was by far the better of the two. “O” is based around water. If you’re seated far enough away, you can easily see the divers going underwater. The beauty of it is indescribable. All I can do is hope that everyone reading this will go see a Cirque du Soleil show sometime in his or her life. It was worth every penny.

Photo courtesy of coroflot.com



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features

Insurgent

By Christina O’Connell
Features Writer

After I read the second adventure of Veronica Roth’s thrilling dystopian series *Divergent*, I was really excited to go to good ole Fountain Stone and see *Insurgent* on the big screen. However, whenever I go see a book’s movie, I get a little nervous. Who knows what Hollywood is going to do with it and my reservations with *Insurgent* came true. If you have read *Insurgent*, this movie might make you angry or disappointed.

The *Divergent* books are a dystopian series written by Veronica Roth. We read through the perspective of Beatrice Prior, a sixteen year girl living inside the wall of leftover America. The community she lives in is set up into five factions: Abnegation, Erudite, Candor, Amity, and Dauntless. Beatrice lives in Abnegation, the selfless group of society. However, everyone has to make the decision of which faction they want to be in. Beatrice chooses Dauntless, the warrior risk takers. Here she meets her love Four and trains to be Dauntless. But Beatrice has to live with the danger that she is divergent.

Insurgent is about Beatrice and Four fighting to defeat the villain, Jeanine Matthews of Erudite. She has a great fascination and dislike of divergents and will stop at nothing to find them. The divergent pose a threat to society. They are the ones that can think and have control of their own mind. However, Jeanine and the government want power and everyone to follow order. Divergents have the ability though to think outside the box. Not how the government or society wants them to think like the norm. Beatrice is divergent and a threat because she can think like Abnegation, Erudite, and Dauntless. She thinks differently and more diversely.

When I watched the movie I was disappointed at many made up elements. The first thing that bugged me with the movie was the characters that played a significant and important role in the book, had minor roles in the movie. Two characters specifically (Marcus and Tori), had two big scenes in *Insurgent* that the movie completely disregarded. There were also characters that just weren’t even in the movie at all. I was really annoyed at how many scenes were left out and made up. I understand that the movies that have been made from books, are not supposed to resemble exactly



Above: A movie poster for *Insurgent*. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

the book. However, I felt that this movie left out important aspects of the book and I would say which ones those are but, I don’t want to spoil anything. There were numerous things added to the movie I guess to be more dramatic and action packed. Some of it was too much and throughout it, I kept saying, “what is this”? I think there was too much added on and too much left out. One of the dilemmas that the creators were probably faced with was the length of the book. It’s long and there’s a lot in it. The important scenes! They left them out! Many of the scenes that dealt with characters that played an essential role in the book. I think that’s what bothered me the most. The movie was so focused on Beatrice and Four, which they have to. But there were so many people that got the cold shoulder and there were really important scenes not even in it. I also think they made the *Divergent* world very technologically advanced and the factionless in *Insurgent* have too much. I think that both of these were added in 2015 affects. Aside from all my grievances with the movie, I think it did well with all the action and actors. At first I wasn’t really sure about Shailene Woodley playing Beatrice, but I think she is starting to embrace her well. I also think in the movie they gave Beatrice too big of a role.

The movie did not do many of the characters justice. They did an interesting twist with the ending, but of course a character’s part at the end got totally disregarded. For anybody that hasn’t read the book, I think you will like this movie. My friend Samantha also watched the movie with me and she really enjoyed it. She has not read the book, but she liked the story and she was able to follow along. There’s a lot of action and dramatic affects. The setting is creepy and alluring, making you wonder if this could truly happen. If you have read *Insurgent*, there might be a lot of things that bug you and you might find yourself saying “what?” a lot. However, I don’t think it was completely awful, but not wonderful either. For me it was ok and I think if I hadn’t read the book, I would have had a different review. Now, I’m interested to see what’s going to happen with *Allegiant* and the big things to come for the ending of the *Divergent* series.

Rise of Serialization

By Joe Cain
Features Writer

Over the course of the last decade or so, the way that we as a culture consume media has changed drastically. All of our entertainment, whether it be movies, television, games or books, are available to us at a push of a button through the magic of Netflix, Kindle and other online services.

New technology has added new convenience. We can watch whatever we want, pretty much wherever thanks to devices like smartphones and tablets.

As a result, the media itself has also began to change along with the advances in tech.

Here’s a quick example.

For most of television history, the majority of episodes have been self contained stories that began and end within a half hour, with little to no carry over into future episodes.

The reason for this is kind of obvious. Back before the internet and dvr, tv producers couldn’t rely on everyone watching every episode. Longer storyline were usually avoided, because outside a reruns, you may never see an episode again.

As a result, studios mandated that ever episode be self contained, so that new viewers could jump in at any point and still enjoy it.

Modern television, and even movies books and cartoons, have slowly started to stray from that model thanks to the power and interconnectivity of the internet. People watch tv on their schedule these days, not live, and in many households, streaming and dvr has replaced the timetable once laid out in *TV Guide*.

This has led to a rise of more complex, longer running stories that rely on the consumer having foreknowledge of previous events.

Quick example. The earlier Marvel movies, including the

first *Avengers* film, were mostly self contained, understandable even if you haven’t watched a single one of its predecessors. As the films have gone forward, however, that slowly started to change. Characters and small plot points have floated between movies, and the upcoming *Avengers: Age of Ultron* will, at the studio’s own ambition, be very hard to understand for anyone who hasn’t seen the previous movies.

Netflix series like *House of Cards* and *Orange is the New Black*, are designed from conception to be marathoned.

The epitome of this is probably *Game of Thrones*. The high fantasy epic of dragons, warring political factions and apocalypse by icy-zombie-things is a sprawling, ludicrously complicated story. There are about four dozen characters with names, backstories, places of origins, abilities, and ties to other characters, with more added even as older ones are killed off in droves.

If you start watching at any point other than the first episode, you’re going to be confused. Heck, you’re probably going to be confused anyway unless you’ve also read the books to help keep all the names straight. It tells a single, overarching story, with nothing episodic about it apart from the fact it’s released one hour at a time.

This mentality started with superhero comics, whose interconnected universe of characters and concepts was a selling point to keep fans buying books.

On the screen, it started with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and later it’s spinoff show *Angel*. While they adhered somewhat to the tried and true conflict of the week style formula, each episode

built off the previous episodes, and after many seasons a dense web of relationships and backstory had formed.

This new focus on serialization and continuity has leaked into pretty much all nerd-based media, including cartoons like *Adventure Time*, the novels of Brandon Sanderson, and even whole new franchises of media.

DC is creating it’s own movie universe, even Ghostbusters is creating it’s own universe....for some reason.

This has created a very interesting prospect for the future of media. On one hand, it means the diminishing of episodic, one off stories. They’ll still be around, but they won’t be the dominant form of media.

On the other hand, it means that stories will be more complex, deep and interesting. Knowing movie studios, TV studios, and game developers, some of this may end up as nothing more than blatant cash grabs.

Mockingjay, the third *Hunger Games* book, did not need to be split into two films, and neither does the upcoming *Alegiant*.

However, I’m cautiously optimistic about these developments.

Continuity, ongoing stories and mythologies to keep up with has long been a staple of geek culture, and I’m glad to see it bleeding along with the rest of sci-fi, fantasy and superhero-y into the mainstream spotlight.

Stories are getting richer, more varied, and more worth consuming, and that’s a great thing.

Rock Music

By Karen Gramajo
Features Writer

Rock music is part of my many cravings. It's a passion in every youth's soul that is sweet and clings to your heart in memory. It's like the delicious nectar calming the nerves or screams out the pain. It makes life beautiful, makes the soul ache, and beats the heart. Older generations hold this nostalgia in vivid memories. Younger generations live the moment with the rock alive today. I began my passion through Green Day, Smashing Pumpkins, Cake, Gorillaz, Nirvana, Nine Inch Nails, Frank Fernandez, Sick Puppies, Fallout Boy, Panic at the Disco, and so many more. Ha! I was the punk rock kid where I grew up. The instrumental developments that concoct the soul in a hard fission. The notes streams down the veins, shivers the discs, embellishes the brain stem, and touches the crook and cranny of the mind. You are just mesmerized by such power. Every note in music can be taken in art form, but also in a scientific perception. The sounds created by vibrations, sound moving through air molecules, and frequency drives the element. Music is powerful enough to incite a social change. Rock and roll overlap the times in U.S history. Civil rights movement, Women's liberation, and The Vietnam War in the 1960's created debates and showed its passion in sound. Music such as folk, rock, and soul send messages, protests, empowerment, and revolution. Youths followed the artist's words in their works and changed

in their communal ways. It's amazing how music can impact so much in a person's heart and spark revolution within the rock community; Queen, Wild Cherry, King's Harvest, Foreigner, Heart, Stevie Nicks, David Bowie, The Doors, etc. shook my world to the core. Many songs tell stories, with characters going on adventures and tell in their emotions. The essence of rock is the instrumental harmony that curves around the world and relates to you in many ways. I really enjoy the aesthetics of music. It's the nature of and mechanics of it. Often music involves identifying techniques, language, and idea of the composition itself. The music theory itself includes belief, statement, and formation. Acoustics, physiology, and psychology are thrown into aesthetics to understand why music makes a large impact on humans. Want to know what's so interesting? Rock and roll would have never existed without electricity, computer engineering, and mechanical engineering. Technology made a behemoth of an impact. There were exhibitions of rock and roll. You might think rock music begins with instruments, but it's much more than that. That's why I love rock. There is a science to it. The acoustics, pitch, rhythm, and harmony makes me crave for more. You can never touch the music, but the music can touch you.

Picture This

By Vivian Myers
Features Writer

Picture this: You live at home with your family all 18 years of your life. You've graduated from elementary to high school. Finally, you've graduated from that dusty old place and moved on to the next step. The freedom that you gain from college is eye opening. The parents aren't there to really tell you what to do so you do what you want. Sure, you have RA's, teachers, and rules, but they don't govern your life like your parents used to.

The world is at your fingertips and you are fully aware of it. Absolutely nothing has ever felt this good during your entire life. Total freedom surrounds you. You can eat when you want, hang out with friends when you want, do your homework when you want... it is a world completely run by you. There is no telling what you may do with your time and freedom.

You have your many responsibilities such as class, sports, and clubs. Though these take up a good chunk of time you have all the time in the world to do what your young heart desires. These desires include many rebellious acts. Things like; drinking, tattoos, piercings, and swearing. These rebellious acts are one of the many things new students do to fill the large amount of free time they have on their hands.

So, it's one of your first weekends on your new college campus. You've made a few upperclassmen friends and they've invited you to a party. They told you that you don't have to drink while you're there, but they think you'd have fun just being there. Following their trustworthy advice you decide to stop by and make an appearance. Everyone is drinking and they look like they're having the time of their lives. To fit in with the crowd you force down two drinks.

Ever since that night you don't have the same fear you once had of alcohol. In fact, you go out on a semi-regular basis and drink with friends. You know your parents and the authorities at school aren't going to like the fact that you now drink and you don't really care.

This along with getting crazy piercings in crazy places and tattoos when you swore you'd never put ink on your body are very common forms of rebellion. Though, the most common form of rebellion is cursing. You walk around campus and everyone is blurting out swear words. They drip from their mouths like saliva from a dog's snout. Hearing them all the time makes you more comfortable with them.

Stub your big toe once and there goes your mouth! Every swear word you can think of comes pouring out.

But soon enough your first break comes along and you get to go home to see your family. You're waiting in your dorm room for your mom to text you that she's outside. And it finally dawns on you. You drink, there's a tattoo on your shoulder, piercings on your face, and every other word you say is foul language. What were you thinking!

The Dresden Files: Harry Potter for Adults

By Jimmy Kile
Features Editor

In today's world, you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who hasn't at least heard of *Harry Potter*. The series was such an astounding success with audiences of all ages. And why not? Everyone loves to see a battle between the forces of good and evil, and everyone can relate to the struggles of school life and the teenage years.

As you grow up you learn the world isn't as black and white as it was when you were younger though. What you once judged as right and wrong isn't so clear anymore.

You've met new people, heard of terrible catastrophes, and see the world in a new way now. The now seemingly lighthearted adventures of *Harry Potter* are just childish stories for your kids.

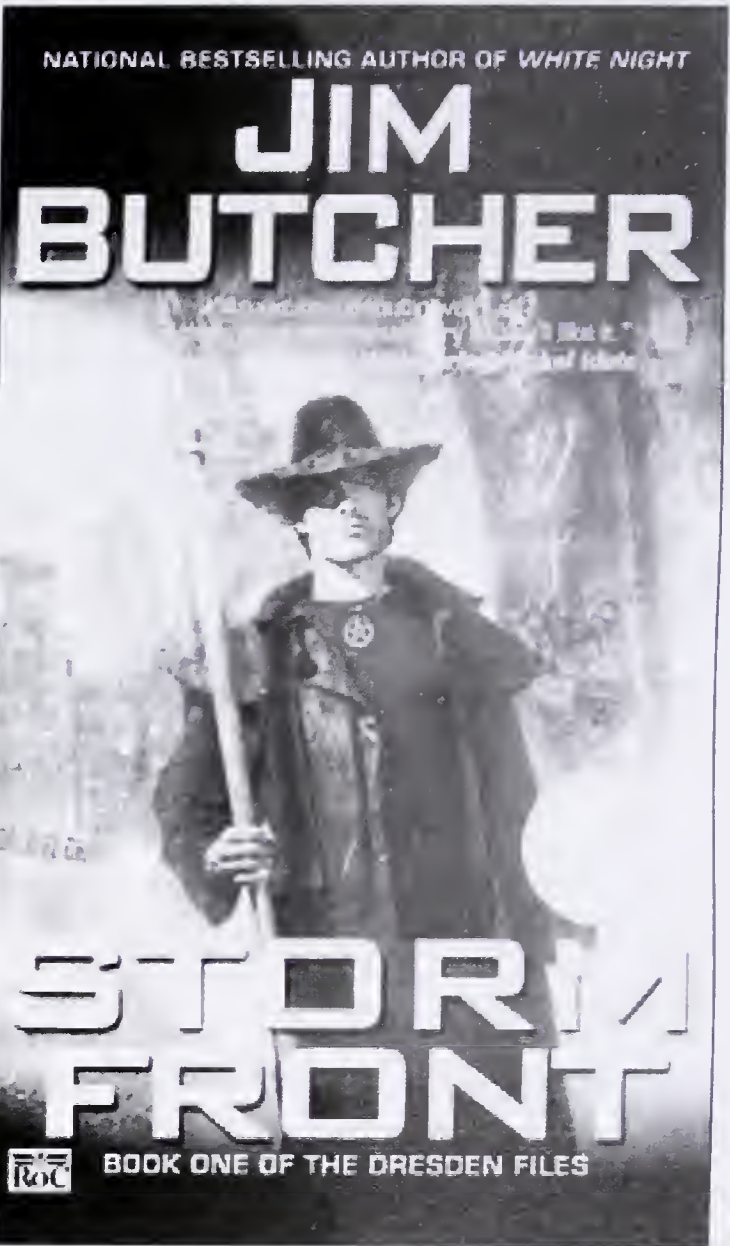
Enter Harry Dresden: a grown up wizard for a grown up audience.

Harry is a private detective in Chicago and uses his magical abilities to help people and occasionally solve cases with the Chicago Police Department for his friend Lieutenant Karrin Murphy.

The series by Jim Butcher begins with *Storm Front*. Join Harry as he tracks down the dark wizard behind a double murder so brutal that the victims' hearts literally exploded out of their chests.

Read along as Harry navigates the Chicago criminal underworld and the even shadier world of wizard politics as he tries to find the murderer. Learn about the in depth and intricate rules and explanations of magic in a way that outshines *Harry Potter's* explanation.

As the series unfolds, emotionally suffer with Harry as he faces choices that change not just his life, but the world,



Above: Cover art for the first book in The Dresden Files series, Storm Front, by Jim Butcher. Artwork done by Chris McGrath. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

forever. Watch Harry learn that the world isn't black and white as he contemplates both selling his soul to save his family and committing mass genocide to save the world.

The Dresden Files teaches the importance of family, friendship, standing for what you believe in, and how to be a smart ass.

Join Harry Dresden as he solves cases and faces situations that will bring you out of the black and white fantasy world of Hogwarts to Chicago and the realistic world of blurred lines and moral choices.

Enter the world of The Dresden Files and see magic, and life, in a whole new way.

Track & Field Beats Record at GLCV

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Co-Editor



Pictured Samantha Nirva getting ready to clear hurdles. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Which was faster? The pounding of their hearts or the racing of their feet... a question one may ask when reflecting back on the Saint Joseph's Men and Women Track and Field team as they competed at the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Championship this past weekend. The team traveled to University of Indianapolis to compete on February 28th and March 1st in their two day conference.

There were outstanding performances from the Pumas

as the men's team finished fifth overall and the women seventh. SJC has a handful of competitors who will be traveling to Nationals, and for the first time in history Logan Barrett qualified in the 5000 meters with a third place finish and time of 14:47. Racing close behind was Justin Hays finishing in seventh place with a time of 15:06. Barrett also placed in the mile with a time of 4:12 and a second place finish. Anthony Bradley was the shot put champion with a throw of 53 feet, .75 inches as he will be traveling

to indoor Nationals as well. After hurdling his way to the third place finish awarding him a bronze medal, Oluwayemi Ogunbameru competed in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.51 seconds.

Just as impressive performances resulted from the women's side as Leeanna Knight earned herself a silver medal as she placed second in long jump with a personal record of 18 feet, 1.5 inches. Sam Nirva hurdled her way to a gold medal in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.79 seconds, also posting a time of

8.75 in the preliminary heat, and who will also be on her way to Nationals. Danielle Perkins and Frehiwet Negassi scored for the team as Perkins landed a sixth place finish in the 60 meters with a time of 8.05 seconds and Negassi seventh in the 3000 meters with a personal record of 10:30.

Now that the indoor season has come to an end, the Pumas are gearing all their focus towards outdoor. It is only the beginning for the Pumas, and it all starts on March 21st on their home track.

Women's Basketball Seizes Close Victory

By Jessica Cates
Sports Co-Editor

On Thursday, February 19th, the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team traveled to Kentucky to take on the Knights of Bellarmine University. Despite another double-double from Kalea Parks, the Pumas fell 61-50. The Pumas struggled early, shooting only 27% and committing nine turnovers. In the first half, the Knights (11-15, 7-9 GLVC) at one point held a 14 point lead before two late three pointers by Courtney Kvachkoff closed the gap and helped to bring the Pumas within 10 with a score of 36-26 going into halftime.

The Pumas came out of the locker strong, scoring the first seven points of the second half, all by Parks, and bringing the game to within three with 13 minutes remaining. The Knights rallied however and brought their lead back to 10 with just 10 minutes left in the game. With six minutes remaining and trailing by 11, the Pumas made one last rally. They managed to pull within 5 with a score of 52-47 before the Knights responded and pulled away late in the game.

Notable performances for the Pumas include Parks, who finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds, Kvachkoff, who recorded nine points, and Tityana Miller, who added eight points.

The following Saturday, the Pumas traveled to Evansville, Indiana to take on the University

of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles. The game began competitively. Midway through the first half, the Pumas were within three with a score of 17-14 before the Screaming Eagles (22-5, 14-3 GLVC) went on a 22 to three run to go into the locker room with a 39-17 lead. In the first half, the Pumas committed 10 turnovers and managed to convert only five of 23 shooting attempts from the field.

After the break, the Screaming Eagles did not let up. They continued to build on their lead while the Pumas continued to struggle with shooting and turnovers, of which they committed 14 more in the second half. USI shot 48% on the night, while the Pumas were held to only 19% shooting.

Statistical leaders for the Pumas include Parks, who ended the game with nine points and six rebounds and Kvachkoff, who recorded six points on the night.

The following Thursday, the Pumas traveled to the University of Indianapolis to take on the Greyhounds. The Pumas forced three overtimes and came within one point of ruining Senior Night for the Greyhounds. The Pumas (11-17, 7-11 GLVC) led by as much as 11 points during the second half of play, but the Greyhounds (11-15, 8-10 GLVC) never gave up and managed to fight their way into overtime. The Pumas Lauren Davis scored the first overtime points and that three point edge remained until



*Pictured: Junior Lauren Davis driving in for a basket
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland*

the 1:19 mark. The Pumas got a stop on the next Greyhound possession, but missed their ensuing shot. Kalea Parks' steal with 20 seconds remaining forced UIndy to foul. Parks split her free throws to make it a two possession game. Two layups by UIndy and two missed free throws by the Pumas forced another over time.

The Pumas again started off strong and held a 75-71 lead with 2:34 left before a Greyhound layup cut that lead in half with 1:46 remaining. Another layup tied the game with just one minute remaining. A defensive stand by the Pumas led to them holding the final possession, but a missed Lauren Davis three led to

yet another overtime. In the final overtime, the Greyhounds held a four point, 82-78 lead with 40 seconds remaining. Courtney Kvachkoff's three pulled the Pumas to within one and a defensive stand led to one final chance, but Davis's would-be game winner fell short.

Notable performances for the Pumas include Parks, who finished with 19 points, Abbey Titzer, who added 18 points and nine rebounds, and Kvachkoff and Davis, who each recorded 18 points.

The Pumas await their opponent in the GLVC Tournament.

Upcoming Events

March 7th

Baseball vs. Gannon University
in Winter Haven, FL
TBA

March 8th

Baseball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan
in Wnter Haven, FL
TBA
Women's Tennis vs. Calumet
College of St. Joseph
1:00 p.m.

March 9th

Men's Tennis vs. Calumet
College of St. Joseph
1:00 p.m.

March 11th

Softball vs. University of Finland
in Clermont, FL
9:00 a.m.
Softball vs. Mercy College in
Clermont, FL
11:00 a.m.


March 13th

Men's & Women's Track & Field
National Championship at
Birmingham, AL

March 14th

Men's & Women's Track & Field
National Championship at
Birmingham, AL

Softball vs. Missouri S&T at
Saint Joseph's College
12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.



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Barrett Competes at Track & Field Nationals

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Co-Editor

Some of you were at the beach, some were relaxing at home, but one of our fellow Pumas traveled down to Birmingham, Alabama to compete at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field National Championship. That Puma was Logan Barrett, being the first male to ever compete in the National Championship under Bill Massoels' career as head coach. "Running is not only a sport that tests your physical fitness, but your mental ability as well," says Barrett. He competed on March 13th in the 5,000 meter race. Barrett raced two seconds faster than his previous race in the 5,000 meter at the GLVC Championship, finishing at Nationals with a time of 14:45 and finished in 13th place. "To be able to represent SJC on the National stage was an amazing experience and accomplishment. The race was a tough one to run," said Barrett. "At that level, everyone is capable of running the same time, so it turns out to be a tactical and physically demanding race with a lot of surges, pushing and clipped heels. I feel that for being a first timer



I reacted to tactics very well." Barrett and the rest of the Puma Track and Field family is now preparing themselves for their 2015 outdoor season. They will take the first strides outdoor on no other track but their own on Saturday, March 21st, following another home meet the next weekend on March 28th.

*Pictured Logan Barrett preparing for Nationals.
Photo courtesy of Teresa Massoels.*

Men and Women's Tennis Compete at Hilton Head

By Sarah Poe
Sports Writer
and Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Over spring break, both the Saint Joseph's College Men and Women's Tennis teams traveled to Hilton Head, South Carolina to compete in several matches throughout the week. The men finished with a winning record (2-1), while the women had a difficult week with a 0-3 record for the week.

On March 9th and 10th, the women's tennis team was defeated by West Liberty and Tiffin University. The Pumas fought hard, but struggled to win sets against the opposing team. Freshman Mary Huffine fought hard losing one of her sets 6-3 against West Liberty University. Freshman Lauren Jakubczyk did well only losing one of her sets 6-4 and another set 6-1 against Tiffin. Similarly in doubles, Huffine and Freshman Mary Perez came extremely close, losing their match 8-6.

On March 12, the Pumas faced East Stroudsburg University. Out of three sets, East Stroudsburg won three out of the four matches, leaving Saint Joseph's Women's Tennis Team with a 6-3 loss. In this match, the Lady Pumas fought hard with each set and match being close. Junior Tate Hickey won a set 5-7 and only lost her other two sets 6-3 and 13-11. Sophomore Vanessa Olson was able to pull through for the Pumas winning her singles match



*Pictured: Sophomore Vanessa Olson getting ready to return a serve
Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.*

with sets 4-6, 6-0, and 10-8. Perez was also able to fight through a three set victory. In the doubles, Olson paired up with Katie Phillips with a 9-8 win. Despite the rain at Hilton Head Island, Saint Joseph's Women's Tennis team remains optimistic.

The Men's Tennis Team found the sun during the rainy Hilton Head Island taking over two wins out of three matches. In the beginning, the tennis team took a 9-0 hit to West Liberty University on March 9, but only used the loss as a motivator to defeat Tiffin University (7-2) and Spring Arbor University (5-2). In the match against West Liberty University, the Pumas fought hard with Junior Reid Imel only losing his sets 7-5 and 6-4. In doubles, Imel and senior Adam Meeker only lost their match 8-6.

In the match against Tiffin University on March 10, Imel and Senior Danny James gained wins winning sets 5-7, 6-2, and 10-5 for Imel and 3-6, 6-3, 10-4 for James. Lucas Jessen also came out victoriously winning sets 6-1 and 6-2. Junior Andrew Klump and freshman Samir Shammas won their matches in the singles division. Doubles partners Klump and James and Samir and Jessen also won their matches.

In the match against Spring Arbor University on March 11, Imel and Meeker gave Saint Joseph's College the advantage after a doubles 8-4 win. Klump and James also secured an 8-2 win. Singles were dominated

by Imel (6-2, 6-3), James (6-1, 6-3,) and Klump (6-2, 6-2). Unfortunately, Meeker and Shammas were unable to finish their matches.

Despite some poor weather and some difficult matches, Puma Tennis is looking forward to the rest of their season. This was only the beginning of the spring outdoor season. The Lady Pumas have many more opportunities to improve upon their records and The Men's Tennis Team has the opportunity to increase their wins even further.

A mistake was made in the printing of Page 6 the first time. This page is the current and correct Page 6 for Volume 81 Issue 10 of The Observer.

Upcoming Events

March 28th

- Women's and Men's Tennis at McKendree University 10:00 am
- Men's and Women's Track and Field vs. Puma Invitational 10:00 am
- Softball at Lewis University 12:00 and 2:00 pm
- Baseball vs. University of Southern Indiana 12:00 & 3:00 pm

March 29th

- Men's Golf vs. University of Wisconsin-Parkside Spring Invite TBA
- Softball at University of Wisconsin-Parkside 12:00 & 2:00 pm
- Baseball vs. University of Southern Indiana 12:00 & 3:00 pm

March 31st

- Softball at University of Indianapolis 3:00 & 5:00 pm

April 1st

- Baseball at University of Indianapolis 12:00 & 3:00 pm

April 2nd

- Women's Golf at University of Saint Francis (Ind.) TBA

April 3rd

- Men's Golf vs. The Jewell TBA
- Women's and Men's Tennis vs. University of Southern Indiana 10:00 am & 2:00 pm
- Softball vs. University of Southern Indiana 12:00 & 2:00 pm

- Baseball at University of Illinois Springfield 12:00 & 3:00 pm

April 4th

- Women's and Men's Track and Field at DePauw Invitational TBA
- Women's and Men's Tennis vs. University of Illinois Springfield 10:00 am
- Softball vs. Bellarmine University 12:00 & 2:00 pm
- Baseball at University of Illinois Springfield 12:00 & 3:00 pm

Baseball Begins Conference

By Jessica Cates
Sports Co-Editor

Saint Joseph's College baseball team began their Conference schedule by traveling to Missouri to take on the Cardinals of William Jewell College. Despite strong pitching performances by seniors Jordan Peterson and Jake Harper, the Pumas fell to the Cardinals 3-2 and 1-0 in their GLVC opener.

Peterson started the first game and held the Cardinals scoreless through four innings. In the bottom of the fifth, however, Coleman Waheed had an RBI single that got William Jewell on the board. Waheed also started off the Cardinals two-run eighth inning by getting hit by a pitch to lead off the inning. The Pumas had an opportunity to turn a double play, but an error prevented them from gaining either out. An intentional walk followed by an error allowed the Cardinals to score their second run of the game. The game winning run was scored minutes

later with Matej Sucha's sacrifice.

The Pumas did not give up however and a rally began with Austin Bartle's one out single. Riley Benner's single advanced Bartle to third before Joshua Handzik's pinch hit single scored him. The Pumas second run was scored on an error which allowed Nic Sampognaro to reach base before Josh Keim hit into a double play to end the game. Both starting pitchers threw complete games, with Peterson allowing three runs, two of which were earned, on three hits with three strikeouts.

Harper started the second game and threw 6.2 innings, allowing only one run on four hits with three strike outs. The Pumas had the opportunity to score in the top of fifth when Keim reached first on an error and helped load the bases with one out. However, the Cardinals turned a double play to end the inning and preserve their shut out.

On the second day of play against the Cardinals, the Pumas

fell in the first game 2-1 before getting their first win of the weekend with their 9-8 victory. Brian Bayliss Jr. started the first game of the day and held the Cardinals scoreless through four innings. Morgan DePew gave the Pumas their first lead of the series with his RBI single in the top of the fourth. However, the Cardinals battled back and took the lead in the fifth with a pair of runs. DePew finished the game two for three with an RBI.

The final game of the series started slow until Joshua Handzik's three-run home run in the top of the fourth. William Jewell was not discouraged however. In the bottom half of the inning, the Cardinals responded with three runs of their own. Josh Keim led off the fifth inning with a single. He later scored on a passed ball and Joe Sturino's ground out added another run to give the Pumas a 5-3 lead. The Cardinals again responded with a run in the bottom half of the inning and two

more in the sixth to take a 6-5 lead.

Following a scoreless seventh inning, Riley Benner led off the eighth with a double. He later scored on Handzik's double. DePew followed with a double of his own, which scored Handzik and gave SJC a 7-6 lead.

The Cardinals were not done however. A two-run double with two outs in the bottom of the eighth gave them an 8-7 lead going into the final inning of the games. The Pumas did not give up though. Chase Fieldhouse got a one-out double and later scored on Benner's single to center. The centerfielder missed the ball and it rolled all the way to the wall, which allowed Benner to score the winning run of the game. Robert Kametas held the Cardinals in the bottom of the ninth to allow the Pumas to get the 9-8 victory.

Notable performances for the Pumas include Handzik, who finished the game two for four with a three-run homerun, a



Pictured junior Austin Bartle at the plate
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

a double, and four RBIs, Benner, who went three for five with a double and two RBIs, and Fieldhouse, who was two for four at the plate with two doubles and a run scored.

The Pumas will host the University of Southern Indiana on Saturday, March 28th. First pitch is scheduled for 12 pm CST.

Softball Starts Strong in Florida

By Tiffany Gibson
Sports Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College softball team traveled to Clermont, Florida and opened their season with two wins. The first game they picked up a 10-1 win against Merrimack. The Pumas led with a score of 4-1 after three innings and busted the game open in the fourth inning with six runs, chasing pitchers out of the game.

The Pumas recorded 10 hits for the game including Kylie Hirchak and Kalene Davis each hitting home runs on the night. Briana Wagner recorded her first career win. Jordan Schneider produced quality relief work and continued to shut out the Warriors.

The second game of the night was against Northern State. Megan Schwartzengraber pitched the start of the game and came in relief to finish the game to pick up the win in extra innings. The Pumas had a 5-1 lead in the

fourth, but the Wolves closed the deficit to 5-5 in the seventh. Stephanie Winter was able to produce the game-winning RBI in the bottom of the eighth inning to complete the sweep of the night. Wagner aided the Pumas cause with a homerun on the night, her second homerun of the season. Schwartzengraber started and was relieved by Jessica Cates who handled the middle innings. Schwartzengraber re-entered late to pick-up her third win of the season.

Their second day in Florida, the Pumas were unable to pick up two more wins. They fought back against Tiffin only to fall 8-4. The Pumas struggled defensively throughout the day as the Dragons batted around in the first frame chasing Megan Schwartzengraber from the game. Tiffin scored five times in the first, but the Pumas continued to threaten throughout the game.

In the top of the second inning,

Briana Wagner ripped a double off the fence that scored two runs, cutting the deficit to 5-2. Stephanie Winter drilled a double into the right center gap in the third inning, but a perfect throw to home plate ended the Pumas' chances of getting closer.

Tiffin added three more runs in the fourth inning, extending its lead to 8-2. Ashley Whitaker answered in the fifth when she hit a homerun over the center field fence to cut the Dragons' lead to 8-4. The Pumas had runners on second and third in the sixth but could not close the deficit.

Against Wayne State, Wagner accounted for the first four runs for SJC as she also hit a two-run homerun. She was pitched a solid game as well, but shaky defense forced Wagner back to shortstop. In the fourth inning, Wayne State led 4-1, but the Pumas answered by tying the game. Jordan Schneider came into the fifth to pitch for three innings. Jessica



Pictured Kalene Davis receiving a pitch
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

Cates was able to conclude the eighth inning for the Pumas. The Wildcats took advantage in the eighth inning to record a 10-6 victory.

The Saint Joseph's College softball team bounced back from those losses with a pair of wins. The Pumas defeated Southwest Minnesota State 5-3 and West Virginia Wesleyan 6-5 to push its spring break record to 4-2. Jessica Cates was steady throughout, pitching six strong

innings for the Pumas.

On their final day in Florida, the Pumas split a pair of games. They battled against California University of Pennsylvania but fell 7-5. They were able to bounce back and defeated Mercy College with a 3-0 shutout.

The Pumas will continue their conference schedule by traveling to Illinois to take on Lewis University on March 28th. First pitch is scheduled for 12 pm.

Puma Athlete Spotlight: Reid Imel



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Athletics Website

By Katelyn Konow
Sports Staff Writer

Reid Imel is a junior from Bluffton, In. He is a Biology major and a Health Therapy minor. He is a member of the men's tennis team.

What do you enjoy most about playing your sport?

"I enjoy the sport itself. It is very individualized, especially in singles. You win or lose by your own actions and are responsible for everything that happens."

How did you start playing your sport?

"I started playing because my dad wanted me to play. At first, I didn't want to play because I wasn't very good, but I stuck with it, got better, and had fun."

How do you enjoy your free time?

"In my free time, I hang out with friends and watch college basketball, especially Purdue."

Who is your favorite professor on campus and why?

"My favorite professor is Fr. Stang because he doesn't get mad when I sleep in his class."

What are your three favorite movies?

"My three favorite movies are Zoolander, Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood, and Friday."

Will you ever cut your hair?

"Absolutely not."

Who is your favorite professional athlete?

"Rodger Federer is my favorite professional athlete because he is the greatest of all time and a class act."

Who do you want to win March Madness?

"Purdue is my favorite to win it

all."

Do you have any pre-game rituals?

"My pregame ritual consists of getting my man bun straight, getting an omelet-everything but mushrooms on egg white-made by Vicky, listening to Stitches 'Breaking Yo Face.'"

Know an athlete that deserves the spotlight? Email their name to jcu8913@saintjoe.edu

Metacarpus
By Nicole Thomsen

I write to keep my hands sane. My mind has been mad for several years now and this is something my hands have come to terms with. I can pull myself out of myself. I can have that self watch myself. I did it for an entire semester. Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 11:18 AM. As my mind wandered across the room and my body stayed fused to it's chair, my hands wrote.

My voice quivers. My words jumble. My hands write. My hands are sure. They are confident without doubt. My right hand, the moon struck beauty queen, is proud of her crescent ink. How confident she remains from a such a sliver of tattoo. My left hand, the wise child bears the poise from my grandmother's ring.

I write because at four in the morning when my body wants nothing more than to be asleep my beautiful boney hands are awake. I write because these pale hands have pale thoughts that are far too magnificent to not put on paper. I write because the bathing beauty has to quarrel with wisdom and by the time they finish a sentence they've written a page. I write because when every part of me is crumbling my hands hold me together. They pick up the shards of my ebony innards and keep them in place. I write because they are far too kind to my wretched soul. Not once did they complain about the bones I broke in them. Not once have they faltered. Not once.

I write because they need to be heard. I write because they deserve to be heard. I write because I am hands.



Charcoal Drawing by Amanda Duncan

Daydream
By Karen Gramajo

The silence screams such bold.
Tears fall from the sky onto sidewalk burning gold.
Alas the dreams from mountains of cloth.
Visions of excitement broaden senses and rush.
Pity I cannot help myself.
For night calls from cool fingers on mind's shelf.
Slivers of mercury slides down thought process.
The pupil in immense stress.

Gold turned to crimson and head blooms in sunset.
Professor goes on but chairs tuned to radio city's threat.
The orange lights flickers to the sky, but the sky does not want.
My pocket watch keeps ticking and slowly the world came to tumble.
The road keeps going and fading into black, orange, and white buckle.
Moving pictures slowing. I am not here or there.
No one knows anything, anywhere.

Stardust are at my fingertips and circuits light.
Period still sticks and in time's best.
Distant music heard and drowse fest.
Orange flickers among tar and sky sighs.
It's stunning with loneliness, slumber lies.

What if my work was there?
It becomes dust on shelves bare.
An illness overcome and swept.
Authors speak in dead papers crept.
The breath on ink and color spiked romance.
Forged memories onto pages with a glance.
Why illness on sacred dance with notice.
Punctures in core's wretched false lotus.



Drawing by Karen Gramajo

The Pleasures of Loving
By Gloria Michelle Leonard

I love Disney. Love it with that childlike
Joy that one feels when true love has

Conquered, when mind, body, soul, and
Aching heart exclaim at once: FINALLY!—

There's a pain in this, excitement. My ex
Tried to shatter the illusion, convinced I expected too much

From relationships: Hopeless, daddy issues perhaps?
I go back, and think of my father

With a sad smile, kind eyes, baseball cap.
Don't settle, he'd say, find the one: so be it.

I love kisses: on temples, my forehead, the
Ones that send shivers down my spine; tongue.

A man who can make me laugh, so hard that I cry—
I love feeling sore from laughter. Love hand-holding,

Vows, pizza-and-Netflix nights, afternoon walks. It hurts
To love so much. And I hate the absence of that pain.



Drawing by Nicole B. Thomsen